

110 Sutter Street, Suite 1003, San Francisco, CA 94104
Information contact: Mike McReynolds, (415) 981-0970

Features Editor
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Sacramento, California 95816

Enclosed is an Opening Weekend Fact Sheet on the American Hiking Society and U.S. Department of the Interior's HikaNation, the 14 month long transcontinental hike from San Francisco to Washington, DC. The HikaNation begins in San Francisco Saturday, April 12th, with ceremonies at the Polo Grounds in Golden Gate Park. On Sunday, April 13th, CalTrans will close off two lanes of the top deck of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge for an estimated 25,000 hikers walking from San Francisco to Oakland. Informational material concerning the events was sent to you on March 1.

Since this will be the first (and possibly only) time the Bay Bridge has been opened to ordinary walkers and hikers (not counting marathon runners), the organizing committee is expecting a large turnout of participants. In order to insure the success of the event we would like as much advance coverage as possible through the Bee. It would be a shame if many Central Valley readers who would like to hike from San Francisco to Oakland were unable to make plans to do so because they did not read about it in the Bee until the weekend of the event.

The State Legislature is passing an Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR 109) which will enable CalTrans to close off two lanes of the top deck of the Bridge. The Boards of Supervisors of San Francisco and Alameda Counties, among others, have also passed resolutions in support. Noble Laureate Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and a member of the organizing committee, has walked the entire width of California scouting out the HikaNation route (copy also enclosed).

We would appreciate the Sacramento Bee's help in publicizing this historically unique event.

Sincerely yours,

Mike McReynolds
Chairman,
Bay Area Committee

OPENING WEEKEND HikaNation FACT SHEET

Saturday, April 12, Opening Day Ceremonies:

9:00 a.m. - Registration begins in the western section of Golden Gate Park at the Polo Grounds.

Transportation- Due to parking problems, participants should plan to use public transportation to get to the Polo Grounds - the N Judah streetcar south of the Park to Sunset Boulevard and the Geary, Balboa or Fulton buses/trolleys north of the Park to 36th Avenue.

Registration Fee - \$3.00 for entire weekend events including the crossing of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The registration packet contains the Sunday Bay Bridge hiker's passage, a form and envelope for a free 6-color stitched shoulder patch, free participation certificate, free gifts and information.

10:00 a.m. - Speeches and Ceremonies

11:00 a.m. - HikaNation begins

Route goes from Polo Grounds to Ocean Beach to Cliff House through Land's End to Bakers Beach to Golden Gate Bridge to Fort Point to Fort Mason to Fisherman's Wharf to Embarcadero. Carry your own lunch and eat at your option.

Hike will end at Ferry Building in mid-to-late afternoon. Public transportation available if needed for return to Golden Gate Park area.

Saturday night:

Overnight camping in guarded and secure parking lots on Fremont Street between Howard and Folsom. No tents... parking lot is underneath Bay Bridge, and thus protected. Restaurants nearby in the area of the TransBay Terminal. No fires. Cooking (if done) should be on small backpacker stoves. Chemical toilets, cleanup facilities and water will be available. Campers may check their packs and sleeping gear if they wish to leave the area.

Sunday, April 13, Bridge Day:

Breakfast for all hikers available at commercial mobile catering units.

5:00 a.m. - Registration for bridge crossing begins for those new hikers who did not purchase \$3.00 registration packet on Saturday. Bridge crossing toll for these newcomers will be \$2.00 for each participant. (The special \$3.00 weekend packets which include the bridge toll will continue to be sold Sunday morning until the supply is out.)

6:00 a.m. - San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opens to hikers at Fremont Street ramp between Folsom and Howard Streets.

9:30 a.m. - Hikers MUST be off Bridge at Toll Plaza and heading toward Oakland Army Terminal. School buses will begin sweeping the Bridge at 8:30 a.m. to pick up stragglers. At 9:30 a.m., CalTrans will reopen hiking lanes on Bridge to vehicular traffic.

Transportation Out Of Oakland Army Terminal - AC Transit will run shuttle buses over to Oakland West BART Station at normal AC Transit bus fares. Participants will be able to utilize BART to return to San Francisco or to other places throughout the East Bay. For those who wish to continue with the HikaNation, signs will point the way to Berkeley's Aquatic Park and the East Bay Hills.

11:00 a.m. - Group begins arriving in Aquatic Park for a lunch stop (bring your own lunch).

4:30 p.m. - Group begins arriving in Tilden park which is the end of the hike for the day. Overnight campsites will be available.

SPECIAL RULES FOR SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE

No children under 10 years of age will be allowed on the Bridge unless carried by parents. (Parents should also consider their own hiking ability as well as the ability of their over 10 year olds before taking them on the Bridge for a 7 mile hike.)

No roller skates, skateboards, bicycles, pets or motorized vehicles will be allowed on the Bridge during the hiking event in the hiking lane.

Hikers must stay out of the buffer lane between themselves and on-coming Bridge traffic.

For safety reasons, no one is to walk on or climb on the metal curb immediately below the Bridge railing or to be on any part of the Bridge superstructure at any time during the event.

Parents and Group Leaders will keep their children under control at all times.

Special monitors will be in charge of crowd control.

All hikers MUST be off the Bridge itself on the Oakland side by 9:30 a.m.

No special transportation will be available from Yerba Buena or Treasure Islands except for regularly scheduled Sunday AC Transit buses.

No water or toilet facilities will be available once the hike is on the Bridge.